



Lent

Sts. Peter and Paul Chapel

A Ministry of the Ecumenical Catholic Church+USA

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March 2025 Parish Bulletin

Parish Web Site: www.sspp-eccusa.org

Parish Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/ssppECCUSA

National Church Web Site: www.ecc-usa.org

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CLERGY MASS SCHEDULE

All In-Person Worship Services Held at 2:00 PM unless otherwise noted.

March 2, 2025: Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time

March 9, 2025: First Sunday of Lent

March 16, 2025: Second Sunday of Lent

March 23, 2025: Third Sunday of Lent

March 30, 2025: Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)

Pastoral Staff:

Pastor: +Fr. Bob Catlett, 314.800.3456, pastor@sspp-eccusa.org

Diocesan Bishop: +Fr. Carl Swaringim, 314.650.1487, BishopCarl@protonmail.com

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

+Fr. Bob Catlett, M.Div., Pastor

March 2, 2025 – 8th Sunday of Ordinary Time: In today's readings, Sirach, Paul and Jesus all urge us to live a life of interior goodness, which will manifest itself exteriorly. Jesus, help us to know ourselves and to correct and interior attitudes that need correction! (Sirach 27:4-7, 1 Corinthians 15:54-58, Luke 6:39-45)

March 5, 2025 – Ash Wednesday: Today is the first day of the Lenten season. We set our course for a forty-day journey. Do we see this as an "acceptable time" for more serious prayer, a well-chosen penitential act, and some specific gift of alms to charity? Whatever we choose, we will keep between our heavenly father and ourselves, offering him our whole heart. (Joel 2:12-18, 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18)

March 9, 2025 – 1st Sunday of Lent: "What does Scripture say? *The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart.*" Jesus demonstrates the power of Scripture in the face of temptation. Three times he withstood the very personal affronts of the evil one with the "strong hand and outstretched arm" of God's saving word. May we find wisdom, courage, and love in your holy word. (Deuteronomy 26:4-10, Romans 10:8-13, Luke 4:1-13)

March 16, 2025 – 2nd Sunday of Lent: God made a covenant with Abram promising that his descendants would become a great nation. Paul encourages fidelity in Christ because our "citizenship is in heaven." There "he will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body," as revealed to Peter, John and James at the transfiguration. Lord, make us faithful until that day of glory! (Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18, Philippians 3:17-4:1, Luke 9:28b-36)

March 23, 2025 – 3rd Sunday of Lent: Today, God gives a striking reminder of how necessary it is to repent, to turn and listen to what he says. God manifested the majesty of his Person to the Israelites through Moses, first in the burning bush and then throughout the exodus, yet they strayed. God will sustain us if we are truly repentant and desire to grow in fidelity. (Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15, 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12, Luke 13: 1-9)

March 30, 2025 – 4th Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday): The wayward son, like Isreal of old, found comfort and peace in the loving embrace of his father, and *his reproach was removed*. "All this is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation." Are we a minister of reconciliation or do we stand aside in reproach like the elder son? (Joshua 5:9a, 10-12, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21, Luke 15:1-3, 11:32)

 **Lent**

LENT IS the season that prepares us to celebrate Easter. The main reason Lent is important is that Easter is more important. On Easter we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, whose passage beyond death into life offers redemption to believers. The Resurrection is the cornerstone of Christian faith. The mystery of Christ's rising from the dead is so deep that the Church invites us to six weeks of preparation before we fully celebrate it. We call that period Lent.

For the faithful, Lent is a time of penitential practices and spiritual discipline. During this time, we acknowledge our sins and seek God's help to overcome them. Traditionally, we engage in acts of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Together these actions show our dependence on God, our renunciation of the fascinations of this world, and our desire to better the lives of others.

For the elect, those preparing for Baptism, Lent is a time of intense spiritual preparation. They will celebrate Baptism at Easter because in this sacrament they enter the mystery of Christ's dying and rising. They die to their former way of life and open their hearts fully to discipleship in Jesus. For the elect, this is a season of purification and enlightenment. The prayers of this season help scrutinize and purify their intentions, removing whatever might block their commitment, and strengthening their resolve. They will become fully illumined with the light of Christ when they celebrate initiation at the Easter Vigil.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends before the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. Ash Wednesday is a day of fast and abstinence. All the Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence.

Bulletin Inserts for the Liturgical Life of the Parish: The Liturgical Year © 2020
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Written by Paul Turner.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

+Fr. Bob Catlett, M.Div.

Special blessings to our parishioners who celebrate birthdays and anniversaries this month:

Birthdays:

Dwight Jacobi: March 6

Anniversaries:

Bishop Carl: March 30: Ordination to the Priesthood (62 years!)

Masses on Facebook Live! Just a reminder...we are now able to livestream our Sunday masses on our Chapel Facebook page. If you are unable to attend in person, join us virtually...we would love to “see” you! You do **not** have to have a Facebook account to join us. Just go to our Facebook page www.facebook.com/ssppECCUSA at 2:00 PM on Sunday afternoons.

Bulletin Inserts (page 3): We continue “getting to know the church, its practices and other pressing issues” with *Bulletin Inserts for the Liturgical Life of the Parish*. The short bulletin inserts provided in this resource cover a variety of liturgy-related topics that aim to assist the parish in the liturgical formation of the assembly. The author, Fr. Paul Turner, provides short catechesis on a wide variety of topics to help the reader gain a better understanding of the “what, how, and why” of the liturgy. Each insert is designed to help the reader engage the liturgy and manifest it in their lives. Fr. Paul Turner is pastor of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Kansas City, Missouri, and director of the Office of Divine Worship for the Diocese of Kansas City–St. Joseph. He holds a doctorate in sacred theology from the Pontifical University of Sant’Anselmo in Rome. ***This month, we learn about the Season of Lent.***